

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00

EUR-25 AEC-11 ISO-00 MC-02 ACDA-19 /070 W

----- 032048

R 141759Z FEB 74

FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1839

C O N F I D E N T I A L USOECD PARIS 4045

EXCON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: ESTC, COCOM FR, CZ, GE

SUBJECT: FRENCH CORING CABLE TO CSSR AND EAST GERMANY -

IL 1754

REF: A. COCOM DOCS (73)2430, 2431 AND 2432

B. STATE 26022

1. WHILE WE APPRECIATE FACT OF INSTRUCTIONS IN REF B WITHIN TIME LIMIT, WE FEARED THAT FIRST PORTION OF REFTEL WOULD BE SEEN AS GRATUITOUS BY BOTH FRENCH AND - PERHAPS - OTHER DELS SINCE IT APPARENTLY FAILS TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF FACT THAT ORIGINAL SUBMISSIONS ARE FOR HYBRID CABLE, OF WHICH LARGEST PORTION (3500 AND 4000 M. RESPECTIVELY) IS IN FACT MADE OF UNEMBARGOED, RUBBER-INSULATED CABLE. ARE WE SUGGESTING THAT CZECHS AND EAST GERMANS SHOULD FIRST BUY 4000 METERS OF UNEMBARGOED CABLE, DRILL TO 4000 METERS, AND THEN BUY ADDITIONAL LENGTHS OF EMBARGOED TEFLON CABLE AND SPLICE IT TO PREVIOUSLY USED LENGTH OF RUBBER-INSULATED CABLE?

2. AS TO APPARENT FUTURE TENSE IN FRENCH REPLY, WE ARE NOT SURE THIS DID NOT SUFFER SOME IN DRAFTING OR TRANSLATIONS, BUT IN ANY EVENT WE MADE THE STRONG ARGUMENT IN CONNECTION WITH (73) 2307 THAT SUCH PROCUREMENT HAS TO BE MADE REASONABLY IN ADVANCE OF ACTUAL USE.

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3. AS MAY BE SEEN IN DRAFT OF COCOM DOC (74) 253, DISCUSSION

OF EARLIER US QUESTIONS ON THESE FRENCH CASES STRUCK SPARKS AT JAN 29 COCOM MEETING WHEN IN RESPONSE TO COMMENT FROM ANOTHER DEL USDEL BROUGHT UP FRENCH QUESTIONS ON OUR OWN CORING CABLE SUBMISSION IN (72) 2307. WE ENDEAVORED THEN TO EMPHASIZE THE REASONABLE CHARACTER OF OUR QUESTIONS IN THESE CASES. QUESTION IN REB B ABOUT DRILLING DEPTHS DOES NOT PRECISELY STRENGTHEN OUR POSITION IN THIS RESPECT.

4. OUR QUERY ON APPARENT ABSENCE OF HYDROCARBON DEPOSITS IN ERZGEBIRGE AREA IS OF COURSE VALID, BUT COVERED PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS ONLY FOR (73) 2430 AND 2432. ON BALANCE, WE FELT IT BEST TO ASK VARNOUX FOR TIME-EXTENSION PENDING VERIFICATION THAT FIRST PORTION OF REFTTEL IS NECESSARY AND - IF NECESSARY - REPHRASING TO TAKE ACCOUNT FOREGOING CONSIDERATIONS.

5. PLEASE INSTRUCT PROMPTLY. SAME CONSIDERATIONS ALSO APPLY RE (74) 206, WHICH IS ON AGENDA FOR FEB 19 MEETING.BROWN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXCEPTIONS LIST, WIRE PRODUCTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: rowelle0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974OECDP04045
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: OECD PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740232/aaaabedz.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. COCOM DOCS (73)2430, 2431 AND 243, 2
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: rowelle0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 APR 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <27-Sep-2002 by rowelle0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRENCH CORING CABLE TO CSSR AND EAST GERMANY - IL 1754
TAGS: ESTC, FR, CZ, GC, COCOM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005